

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a first computer entity, said method comprising:

operating a peer to peer protocol for enabling said first computer entity to utilize a resource of a second computer entity in a peer to peer network, and for enabling said second computer entity to utilize a resource of said first computer entity in said peer to peer network; and

operating a process for managing said second computer entity, wherein said process utilizes said resource of said first computer entity, and is invoked as a background activity to manage said second computer entity only when said resource of said first computer entity is not being used by a service application at a higher level layer than said peer to peer protocol.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said process comprises:

determining a policy by which said first computer entity will interact with said second computer entity.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said process comprises:

adopting a policy towards said second computer entity, wherein said policy is selected from a set of pre-determined policies for determining a relationship between said first computer entity and said second computer entity.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein managing said computer entity comprises a process selected from the group consisting of:

placing said second computer entity in quarantine;

controlling access by said second computer entity to a communal resource stored on said first computer entity; and
applying a charge for utilization by said at least one other computer entity of a communal resource.

5- 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A first computer entity comprising:
a peer to peer networking component for allowing said first computer entity to engage other computer entities on a peer to peer basis; and
a network management component for enabling said first computer entity to participate in management of a peer to peer network,
wherein said network management component operates a process for managing a second computer entity in said peer to peer network, and
wherein said process utilizes a resource of said first computer entity, and is invoked as a background activity to manage said second computer entity only when said resource is not being used by a service application at a higher level layer than said peer to peer protocol.

12. (Previously Presented) The first computer entity as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network management component is activated whenever said peer to peer networking component is operational.

13. (Previously Presented) The first computer entity as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network management computer comprises program data that controls said resource to perform a network management service.

14. (Previously Presented) The first computer entity as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network management component applies a policy for determining a mode of operation of said first computer entity in relation to said second computer entity.

15. (Previously Presented) The first computer entity as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network management component operates to:

communicate with a plurality of other computer entities of said network for sending and receiving policy data concerning an operational policy towards said second computer entity; and

determine, from a consideration of policy data received from said other computer entities, a global policy to be adopted by each computer entity in said network, towards a said second computer entity.

16. (Currently Amended) A data storage media comprising:

program data for controlling a first computer entity to perform a method that includes:

operating a peer to peer protocol for enabling said first computer entity to utilize a resource of a second computer entity in a peer to peer network, and for enabling said second computer entity to utilize a resource of said first computer entity in said peer to peer network; and

operating a process for managing said second computer entity,

wherein said process utilizes said resource of said first computer entity, and is invoked as a background activity to manage said second computer entity only when said resource of said first computer entity is not being used by a service application at a higher level layer than said peer to peer protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a first computer entity having:

a set of computing resources; and

a higher level service provided by a service application, said method comprising:

operating a peer to peer protocol for enabling said first computer entity to utilize a resource of a second computer entity in a peer to peer network, and for enabling said second computer entity to utilize a resource of said computer entity; and

operating a process for managing said second computer entity,

wherein said process utilizes said set of computing resources, and is invoked as a background activity to manage said second computer entity only when said set of computing resources is not being used by said service application at a higher level layer than said peer to peer protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first computer entity automatically operates said process, in response to receipt of a service request from a third computer entity in said peer to peer network.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said process includes considering whether said second computer entity allows said first computer entity to utilize said resource of said second computer entity.

22. (Previously Presented) The first computer entity of claim 11, wherein said process considers whether said second computer entity allows said first computer entity to utilize a resource of said second computer entity.

23. (Previously Presented) The data storage media of claim 16, wherein said process considers whether said second computer entity allows said first computer entity to utilize said resource of said second computer entity.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said process considers whether said second computer entity allows said first computer entity to utilize said resource of said second computer entity.

25-26. (Cancelled)